

**NORTHERN REGION OPERATIONS
CO WEEK / PROCLAMATION SIGNING - COMPLEX
REPRESENTATIVES**

COMPLEX:	NAME:	OTHER:
EYMAN	CO II Iran Miller	<p>Officer Miller began working for the Department in July, 1999 at North Unit. Not long after he was assigned to North Unit he decided he needed something more, which led him to the Tactical Support Unit. It was at that time he gained an interest in K-9.</p> <p>He began training with K-9 on his days off posing as decoys for the patrol dogs. The more training he received at canine the more he was convinced he wanted to take on the task of a K-9 of his own. When an announcement came out he applied and after meeting all the minimum qualifications and successfully completing the Oral Board got the position.</p> <p>In October, 2004, he started his first K-9 Academy. The day after graduation his canine passed away of natural causes. The Department assigned him a new dog and he got to attend the next Academy.</p> <p>In May, 2004, he graduated and was off to a great start with a couple if immediate narcotic recoveries. Officer Miller and his canine were out of the K-9 Academy for approximately four months when he got called to the Major's office. Due to some Officer changes at Canine, Officer Miller was ask by the Major if he would be willing to give up his canine and take on a much more difficult and aggressive dog.</p> <p>He took the challenge and began his third Academy in October, 2005. Officer Miller was assigned this aggressive dog, Alex, because of his natural ability to work, control and handle dogs. He and his team placed 5th place in Narcotic Detection and 6th place Team Overall at the Scottsdale K-9 trials. His hard work and dedication to the Department does not go unnoticed by Eyman and Florence Administration.</p> <p>On his off time he has another full time job being a single parent to two small children. He enjoys going to Lake Havasu to his family's vacation home to relax and unwind. He also enjoys hiking in the mountains.</p>

FLORENCE	CO II Kenneth Vance	<p>Officer Vance has worked for the Department for 7.5 years. He began his career at ASPC-Eyman- Meadows Unit with a goal of becoming a K-9 handler. After meeting the minimum qualification and successfully completing the Oral Board that dream became reality on September 2001. He attended the 280 hour K-9 Academy at COTA graduating November 7, 2001.</p> <p>Since the completion of the K-9 Academy Officer Vance has excelled taking advantage of all additional training the Department offers him. He is looked upon by other Agencies as a subject matter expert when it comes to trailing hounds.</p> <p>For the past two years Officer Vance and Rowdy have been called upon by Phoenix P.D. K-9 to instruct Urban Tracking Instructor Training.</p> <p>In October and November 2005, he attended the Tucson Police Department SWAT School. It included 80 hours SWAT School and 40 hours SWAT Tactical Carbine.</p> <p>Since he has been assigned to canine he has been involved in over 35 Agency assists. He has received a Meritorious Service Award, Quest Award and K-9 Unit Citation Award from the Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge for his outstanding K-9 service.</p> <p>Outside of work he enjoys the outdoors with his wife and three children. He is a livestock leader for the Pinal County 4-H Club helping children from the ages 9 to 19 with their animals.</p>
PHOENIX	CO II Elizabeth Payne	<p>Officer Payne began working for the department in 1997 at the Globe Unit. After working at ASPC-Perryville for two years, she transferred to ASPC-Phoenix in 2003. Officer Payne works K-9 Diesel and their primary duties are drug detection. Officer Payne, along with K-9, Diesel, also conducts barrier sniffs of inmates and visitors entering the unit to discourage narcotic introduction.</p> <p>Officer Payne and K-9, Diesel, are also responsible for conducting quarterly vehicle searches on visitors entering the unit. These searches have been very successful in the deterrent of contraband introduction.</p>

		<p>Officer Payne and Diesel are also called upon to assist local law enforcement in the searches of vehicles for the detection of narcotics.</p> <p>Officer Payne and Diesel are certified for bite work / handler protection and trained on a regular basis throughout the state.</p> <p>During the Phoenix K-9 Trials, Officer Payne and her K-9 were part of ADC team that placed 3rd overall.</p> <p>Officer Payne's outside interest include family, picnicking and fun!</p>
SAFFORD	CO II Jonathan Fertig	<p>CO II Fertig has been with ADC since December 1, 1997 working all of that time at ASPC-Safford. He graduated from the K-9 Academy April 2002, and certified with his K-9 partner, Rico, in December 2002.</p> <p>CO II Fertig and Rico have been called upon several times to assist in searches of the Mojave and Gila units at ASPC-Douglas, where they have received appreciation letters from the Unit's Warden for their hard work and dedication. They are also called upon frequently to assist with inter-agency searches.</p> <p>CO II Fertig and Rico and another ASPC-Safford tracking hound team participated in an inter-agency search today. We were notified by Graham County Search and Rescue, that a 13-year old boy with ADHD had wandered away from his home in the San Pedro River area near Sierra Vista and had been missing 24-36 hours. Our 2 teams responded to assist in the search. We were just notified that our team got on track and located the boy approximately 8 miles from his home.</p> <p>When not on duty, CO II Fertig enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and golf.</p>
WINSLOW	CO II Alvin McPherson	<p>Alvin McPherson has been a Correctional Officer at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Winslow, since July 23, 1990.</p> <p>During his tenure, CO II McPherson has worked at the Kaibab, Kaibab SSU and Complex Canine Units. He has been assigned to Swings, Days, Operations, SSU and his most recent position as a Canine Handler for the Winslow complex. CO II McPherson has demonstrated a great drive</p>

		<p>to promote a drug free work/living area at the Winslow Complex. He is constantly developing different intervention strategies to prevent drug trafficking.</p> <p>CO II McPherson and Rex are actively involved in the Winslow tracking hound program. He has assumed dual duty as a Tracking Hound Handler, concurrent with his primary duty as a Narcotic Detection Service Dog Handler. In 2005, COII McPherson was instrumental in the establishment of a hound tracking training camp held at the Navajo Army Reserve Depot at Bellemont, Arizona.</p> <p>COII McPherson utilized the Department's working relationship with depot administrators to facilitate the two-day tracking hound camp including housing for all attendees as well as the land to run scenarios, resulting in cost savings to the Department.</p> <p>In 2005, the two day training/three nights lodging utilizing the army barracks cost \$599.58. There was 45 staff representing ADC, Phoenix Police Department and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. This training focused on basic tracking, escapes, fugitive apprehension and general search and rescue.</p> <p>In 2006, COII McPherson organized this year's camp for May 12 -13, 2006. The cost of the camp is expected to remain the same although the number of participants is expected to increase to 100. To date, COII McPherson has received confirmation by 73 participants from ADC, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Apache County Sheriff's Office, Tempe and Phoenix Police departments.</p> <p>COII McPherson assumed this responsibility with the same high level of enthusiasm he evidences maintaining training and certification of his assigned service dog Rex.</p> <p>On October 15, 2002, CO II McPherson received a Letter of Appreciation for his job performance investigating suspicious behavior from two visitors resulting in the seizure of contraband (cigarettes) from an inmate working off-site work.</p> <p>On October 2000, CO II McPherson received a Letter of Appreciation for his work as a pre-audit team. Due to his diligence in completing his assignments the complex audit</p>
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		<p>resulted in a 94.7 % compliance rate.</p> <p>On July 1999, CO II McPherson received a Letter of Appreciation for assisting in creating a statistic report, reporting any trends in regards to inmate discipline.</p> <p>On September 24, 1998, CO II McPherson received a Letter of Appreciation for responding to a disturbance where two staff members were seriously injured. COII McPherson along with other staff actions helped stop further harm to other staff.</p> <p>On June 9, 1998 CO II McPherson received a Letter of Appreciation for volunteering for working overtime during a time of extreme shortages.</p> <p>On January 21, 1998 CO II McPherson was nominated for the uniformed employee of the month for his teamwork, motivation and job performance. COII McPherson was not selected however was issued a Letter of Appreciation.</p>
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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Southern Region Operations

COMPLEX	NAME	COMMENTS
Yuma	Abraham Sandoval	<p>Abraham Sandoval, Correctional Officer II, began his career with the Department of Corrections on December 08, 1997. Upon graduation from the Correctional Officer Training Academy, Officer Sandoval was assigned to the Cheyenne Unit as a yard officer before being assigned to CDU. Approximately one year later, Sandoval was transferred to Complex where he served as an Officer for six months on the outside work crew and then as a Transportation Officer for 1 ½ half years, before being appointed to the Complex Canine Team.</p> <p>As a Canine Officer, Sandoval has demonstrated excellent initiative and has received several certificates.</p> <p>As a member of the Canine Team, Officer Sandoval and Chico have participated in many local events including job fairs and presentations at local schools. He has also had the opportunity to train with other local entities to include the Border Patrol, Customs, the Yuma Police Department, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, the Marine Corps and the Quartzsite Police Department. Currently, Officer Sandoval has 77 narcotic finds, indicating his excellent skills and abilities as a canine handler.</p> <p>Being a member of the Canine Team is not enough for Officer Sandoval. He has become involved in many more aspects of the Complex and has made himself a valuable member of the Yuma Complex.</p> <p>Sandoval actively participates as an instructor whenever he is called upon to do so and he is well liked by his peers. He provides an excellent demeanor and fun spirit to all of his presentations.</p> <p>Outside of work, Officer Sandoval can be found on the local baseball fields. He is a coach for his son's 9-10 year old baseball team, as well as the coach of a local women's softball team that plays in the City of Yuma League. As a member of the Yuma Complex Baseball Team, he also participates in many local and State charitable tournaments.</p> <p>Officer Sandoval is an exemplary employee of the Arizona State Prison Complex Unit. He is very knowledgeable and is willing to assist with any task. He puts forth his best effort into everything he does and his professional demeanor and outstanding work ethic are commendable.</p>
Tucson	Ruben Gomez	<p>CO II Gomez has been with the Arizona Department of Corrections since March 1991. He has been a member of the K-9 Team since November 2001.</p> <p>CO II Ruben Gomez is one of the most experienced K9 handlers and the staff member with the most seniority. CO II Gomez performs his duties exceeding expectations every day. His uniform is always in excellent condition and his boots are always shined. He takes pride in his appearance it is one of his top priorities. I have learned a lot from Officer Gomez, even though I am his supervisor he assists me on K9 training issues with my K9, and I have seen him assist other handlers using his</p>

		<p>experience and training. Officer Gomez will go the extra mile to get the job done so the K9 team succeeds in our tasks. CO II Gomez is a great asset to this department and especially to the K9 Unit; in addition he has been a member of Tucson's Tactical Support Unit since 1999. CO II Gomez's knowledge, professionalism and dedication are something we should all be proud of as Correctional Professional workforce.</p> <p>Ruben Gomez enjoys interacting with the community; he is always willing to give demonstrations of the K-9 team at any area school and has participated in several, he relishes the interpersonal give and take between the students and himself and his service dog Tio. He also is a devoted family man with three very intelligent daughters and his wife, and he actively participates in events that involve his daughters such as Tee-Ball this year. His personality is extremely out-going and has been part of the Departments radio recruitment campaign of a few years ago. He is a consummate father, husband, citizen and law enforcement Officer.</p>
Douglas	Stephen Bowie	<p>Officer Bowie began working for the Department of Corrections in June 1992. He has worked numerous units throughout the complex. He interviewed and was selected to join the prestigious K-9 team in September 2002.</p> <p>Officer Bowie and his dog, Vico, take great pride in accomplishing their daily duties such as searching inmate living areas, common areas and transportation vehicles. They also have been involved in the community, making drug awareness presentations throughout the Cochise County School Districts, and conducting complex tours for different agencies for many years.</p> <p>CO II Bowie is a Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) tester for the Department of Corrections. He tests staff in Tucson, Safford and ACI, saving the Department of Corrections thousands of dollars.</p> <p>His hard work and dedication to the Department does not go unnoticed by Douglas Administration and staff.</p>
Lewis	Suzette Whitaker	<p>CO II Whitaker began her career with the Department of Corrections on 07/20/1998. On 03/18/2004, she joined the ASPC-Lewis K-9 team.</p> <p>CO Whitaker is a dedicated employee whose knowledge and enthusiasm for her job shows daily in her performance. CO II Whitaker has earned the respect of both staff and supervisors by demonstrating her willingness to work, learn, mentor and demonstrate professionalism. CO II Whitaker is a team leader for the K-9 team. She willingly works overtime when needed with her K-9 service dog, Paula.</p> <p>In November 2005, CO II Whitaker and Paula participated in a national K-9 competition held in Tucson, AZ. During the K-9 trials, CO II Whitaker took top honors in several events; parcel interdiction, narcotic detection and individual handler events. CO Whitaker's hard work and dedication have certainly set the standard for future K-9 Officers.</p> <p>Suzette enjoys interacting with the Buckeye Community and government entities. She is always willing to assist local law enforcement entities with K-9 support when needed. She is a devoted mother of twin four year old daughters.</p>

<p>Perryville</p>	<p>Theresa Burns</p>	<p>Officer Teresa Burns began working for the Department of Corrections in December 1997. In 1997, Officer Burns left the United States Navy after four years of service during which time Officer Burns was assigned to a Destroyer ship. Officer Burns was first assigned to the Santa Maria Unit at ASPC-Perryville. Officer Burns excelled in all areas of her employment learning every post and assisting the training of new staff.</p> <p>In September of 2002 Officer Burns applied to become a K9 handler. There were several applicants and only one exemplified the image of what K9 handlers are. Officer Burns was selected as the top pick at ASPC-Perryville. In October 2002 Officer Burns began her new assignment with Service Dog, Apollo, at the ADC Service Dog Academy in Tucson.</p> <p>Officer Burns has worked with Apollo for the past 4 years. They have done thousands of searches in all areas of Perryville. Officer Burns has also assisted out side agencies in various locations and tasks. Officer Burns and Apollo have certified annually since graduating the academy.</p> <p>In 2003 Officer Burns and Apollo were sniffing the mailroom for narcotic contraband. Apollo alerted to the presence of Narcotic odor. Officer Burns noticed an envelope containing several sheets of colored paper. Officer Burns had found the first known confirmed piece of Methamphetamine paper in ADC. This find resulted in the successful prosecution of the suspect.</p> <p>Officer Burns is married and has 1 child. Officer Burns continues her education by attending college while not at work.</p>
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